

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 14, 1915.



INFANTRY organizations of the National Guard of the District of Columbia will have to content themselves with a camp alone this year, while the 1st Battery, Field Artillery, Signal Corps Company and medical organizations are enjoying joint camps with federal troops. Notice was issued by the War Department during the week that "appropriations will not warrant holding joint camps for infantry instruction." But the notice stated that "it is contemplated to hold joint camps of instruction for field artillery, coast artillery, signal corps and medical corps during the coming summer, and it may be possible to hold a joint camp for the cavalry on a small scale."

No steps have yet been taken by local National Guard officials looking to the selection of a site for the next annual encampment, although there are a number of officers and men of the local National Guard who favor a return to the Virginia Beach camp site. It was declared to be probable, however, that Brig. Gen. George H. Barries, commanding the District of Columbia militia, will take up the question of a camp site in the very near future.

Although the battery of field artillery of the local guard has not been in camp with the other organizations for the past three years, it is pointed out, this part of the organization is not really needed at an encampment. However, Col. Parmerter, commander of the general, District of Columbia militia, declared that the Signal Corps would be missed in working out tactical problems, although it is to a joint encampment would not work a hardship on the infantry organizations.

Col. Parmerter, conceded at the same time that much benefit would be derived by the signal company by a joint encampment with the troops of the regular service.

Some time ago it was believed that so much money would be taken up in paying the property shortages of 1912 that there would be little left for an encampment of the infantry this year, but Col. Parmerter said he believed there would be sufficient funds with which to finance a camp this year without creating a deficit.

The question of a camp site and the dates for the encampment of 1915, it is declared, will have to be determined very soon, in order that the members of the guard may make their arrangements for getting their leaves of absence. To wait until the eleventh hour to announce the dates, it is stated, always has its effect upon the camp attendance, because the men cannot get away from their civil employment on short notice.

The target practice of the National Guard of the District of Columbia will be held on the Congress Heights rifle range in May and June of this year, according to Col. Parmerter, who said the order for the practice had been prepared, but he did not want to publish it until he had had a conference with Maj. Joseph C. Castner, U. S. A., who is to relieve Col. Parmerter as adjutant general—the reason that the practice season comes after Col. Parmerter relinquishes his duties here.

Col. Castner is already visiting the local National Guard organizations on their drill nights, getting in touch with their work of the militiamen. He has made several calls at the armories during the week, and has been present at the annual inspections of some of the companies. Capt. Joseph P. Hobbs, U. S. A., inspector-instructor assigned to the local National Guard, who reported for duty here last Monday, is conducting the inspections.

In view of the fact that Maj. Castner is taking a course at the Army War College at Washington barracks and will not finish the course in some time in June, it is understood that Maj. C. Fred Cook, adjutant general's department, N. D., is to act as adjutant general of the militia until such time as Maj. Castner completes his studies at the War College.

The organizations to be inspected during the coming week are Companies E and M, 2d Infantry, Monday; headquarters staff and non-commissioned staff, supply company and Companies A and B, 1st Infantry, Tuesday; Companies C and D, 1st Infantry, Wednesday; Companies E and F, 1st Infantry, Thursday; Companies G and H, 1st Infantry, Friday.

A book of instruction for the solution of map problems, written by Capt. Bernard Sharp, U. S. A., is ready for distribution, according to the bulletin of the division of militia affairs, War Department. It has been especially prepared for militia officers who are pursuing the course in special tactics by the solution of map problems.

Commissions were issued during the week to Capt. John H. Schaff, 1st Infantry; Capt. Thomas Brown, 1st Infantry; First Lieut. James B. Jones, 1st Infantry; First Lieut. March A. Benhamer, 1st Infantry; First Lieut. Herbert E. Eames, 1st Infantry, and First Lieut. John A. Puzos, 1st Infantry.

Col. William E. Harvey, commanding the 2d Regiment of Infantry, N. G. D. C., has been granted leave of absence to April 17. He has gone to Porto Rico on business.

After twenty-seven years of efficient service, Maj. Romulus A. Foster, Medical Corps, N. G. D. C., has been retired on account of age. Maj. Foster, at the time of his retirement, was in command of the sanitary detachment of the 1st Infantry, which is the regimental hospital.

Maj. Foster, who is sixty-four years of age, was presented with his gold medal for twenty-five years' service just two years ago. The presentation took place on the big camp ground at Camp Ordway, Harpers Ferry, W. Va., when the entire brigade of the National Guard of the District of Columbia was drawn up on the parade ground. Brig. Gen. George H. Barries, commanding the District of Columbia militia, personally presented the medal, and complimented Maj. Foster upon his long service.

Practically every camp of the guard has been attended by Maj. Foster, who looked after the life of the young men in the guard who were at camp.

Maj. Foster was appointed a second lieutenant and surgeon in the Medical Corps of the 2d Battalion, July 20, 1888, and served in that rank until July 11, 1899, when he was named as the head of the regimental hospital of the 1st Infantry.

His quiet and unassuming disposition made for Maj. Foster many friends, both in the enlisted and commissioned personnel of the local National Guard, who view with much regret his separation from the service on account of age.

August 13 next has been named as Spanish War Veterans' day at the Panama-California exposition, at San Diego, Cal., and a communication received at brigade headquarters from the officials of the exposition extends an invitation to members of the local National Guard to be present on that day.

There are several vacancies for non-commissioned officers in company B, 2d Infantry, and Capt. Sharpless, commanding the organization, is now

going over the personnel of the company with a view to selecting men for the positions. The vacancies include two sergeants and three corporals.

It is declared that he has before him the names of the men who are being considered, and expects to make an announcement during the week. The men are to be given a chance to show their knowledge of military tactics and ability to take command of squads and sections.

A non-commissioned officer's school is to be established within the present month, to be presided over by Capt. Sharpless. All non-commissioned officers of the company will be required to attend the sessions of the school.

MUCH of the time of the drill periods of the Naval Battalion of the District of Columbia is being devoted to preparations for the annual inspections to take place the night of April 1. Lieut. Harrison Knauss, U. S. N., commanding the U. S. S. Sylph, stationed at the Washington navy yard, who has been assigned to the District naval militia as inspector-instructor, will make the inspection on behalf of the Navy Department to determine whether the local organization meets the requirements of the department and is eligible to participate in the federal allotment of funds.

The number of men who are present the night of the inspection determines the amount of money which will be allotted to the local naval militia by the federal government. Rapid strides have been made by the organization during the year in enlistments, and the strength probably will be the night of the inspection 100 per cent greater than the showing made at the inspection last year.

Last Thursday night the division of officers were required, under the terms of orders issued by Lieut. F. W. Sigourney, executive officer, to inspect the lockers of the men in the division and then take home all duty clothes and return them next Thursday clean.

Commander Dempf next Thursday night will make an inspection of all the lockers of the enlisted men to determine whether any work is necessary to pass the annual inspection. By the time of the inspection the U. S. S. Sylph will have returned from the Norfolk navy yard, where she has been for the past month undergoing a thorough overhauling. The men are working on the small boats of the organization, and these, too, will be ready to pass inspection by April 1.

Requisitions have been sent in by Commander Dempf, asking for additional equipment, in order that the organization may be fully supplied with all the necessities for actual service. The requisitions call for additional clothing and rifles—enough to equip the present strength and to provide for a 10 per cent increase, as required by orders of the Navy Department.

Although preparations were made last Thursday night by Commander Dempf for a detail of men to go to the Norfolk navy yard, leaving Washington next Friday night, to form the crew which will return the Sylph to her berth here, it is the expressed desire of Lieut. Sigourney that Secretary Daniels will make known before Friday his decision as to whether he will assign the torpedo boat Bailey to Washington as a practice ship.

It has been represented to Secretary Daniels that an early decision will mean a saving to the government. If the Washington naval militia men go to Norfolk and bring the Sylph here, it will mean additional expenditure of funds to return the ship and go to Norfolk to bring up one of the torpedo boats now there in drydock. Secretary Daniels has been urged to make known his decision before Friday.

Commander Dempf plans to leave Washington Friday night on the Norfolk and Washington steamer, with the Sylph's crew, arriving at Norfolk the following morning. Breakfast will be eaten aboard the U. S. S. Franklin, training ship at the yard. A good part of Saturday will be taken up in purchasing supplies for the ship for the trip to Washington, and it is the plan to start in time to reach Washington by Sunday afternoon.

The first of the small boats to be put overboard will be the steam launch known as the "second steamer." This boat is now in drydock at the Washington navy yard, having her hull painted. This probably will be finished during the week, it is declared, and before next Sunday it is expected to have the vessels berthed alongside the battalion's dock at the foot of Water and O streets southwest.

As a result of the announcement that no more men will be enlisted in the local naval militia after Thursday night, there was a rush of applicants last Thursday night, and the Medical Corps of the organization, headed by Lieut. F. H. Morhart, was kept busy.

Only experienced men will be taken on the battleship cruise this year, which will be for fifteen days, beginning July 3. The cruise probably will be to Havana, Cuba. The only exception to the rule not to enlist after Thursday night will be in the case of men who have served one or more full enlistments in the navy.

The Naval Battalion within the next week is to receive a four-inch gun for installation in the armory at the foot of Water and O streets southwest, to be used in training the gun crews who will participate in target practice aboard one of the battleships of the Atlantic fleet at Gardiner's bay next July.

Notice has been received that the gun will be shipped in a few days from the Washington navy yard.

A QUESTION.

And the cow jumped over the moon.

Why didn't she take the elevator, pa?

## TRAVELETTE

BY NIKSAH.

## Beirut.

Bustling modernity and a past that is older than history meet and touch in Beirut.

Beirut was an old city and an important port of the Mediterranean 2,000 years ago, and today it is still an important port and a thriving, cosmopolitan city.

At Beirut there are a French gas com-

pany, an English water works and an American college. There are four trolley lines, an important railway terminus, and a harbor filled with modern shipping. Beirut has excellent modern hotels, newspapers are sold on its streets and at the great department stores, kept mostly by Frenchmen, you can buy almost anything that you could in Paris. The moving picture has taken Beirut for its own, and typewriter and sewing machine agencies are as numerous as in any western city.

Yet the roots of this modern city are deep in antiquity. Alexander the Great marched his victorious armies through its streets and held there the grand revels for which he was famous. Pompey also came to Beirut as a conqueror and added it to the Roman empire. It was in Beirut that Herod accused his two sons, and Vespasian

passed through the city on his way to be crowned at Rome. In a word, history has marched down the streets of battle-scarred Beirut, and it has known the great of all the ages.

But the story of Beirut goes back of history into the ages of myth and legend. Almost everybody has heard the story of St. George and the dragon, but very few know that he slew the monster at Beirut. It was the daughter of the governor of Beirut whom the dragon was going to eat, and whom St. George saved and it is supposed, married. If any one doubts the story let him go to Beirut, where he will be shown the remains of the temple that was built to commemorate St. George's exploit, and the well down which he threw the body of the dragon.

And Beirut is a setting worthy of

great events. It is situated on the point of a cape which reaches out five miles westward from the foot of Mount Lebanon. West of it lies the blue Mediterranean. The city of square roofs and slender minarets is crowded close to the harbor; inland spreads the soft, silver green expanse of one of the largest olive groves in the world, and above it lies the great range of Lebanon, with its dark pine-clad slopes and summit tipped half the year with snow.

## Plumage for Men.

From the Boston Herald.

Now the masculine hat sports its tiny splash of color. Gone the plumed headdresses which for three centuries dominated

the world of fashion. Tabooed the sweeping sombrero for street wear in the teeming cities of the east. But the students of sartorial art note with a smile that the male, while loudly protesting his indifference to the wiles of dress, which are affected by "the female of the species" is availing himself more and more of the little tufts of blue or red and the dainty scarlet feather faunted upon the starboard side of certain headgears of the prevailing mode. Devoid of the gorgeous raiment which his ancestors wore, his legs immersed in nether garments for which they never were molded, denied any degree of polychromatic splendor, poor man welcomes with becoming gratitude such small crumbs of comfort as this plumed hat af-

fords. Of all the foreigners who ever visited the United States, excepting perhaps only Lafayette, Louis Kosuth, the Hungarian patriot, received the most effusive welcome. Forthwith the Kosuth hat, of soft felt with a defiant and aggressive plume, leaped into good the high silk hat which was working its way into favor. But then the hat which was sponsored in 1849 by Kosuth was supposed to typify the vigorous character of the sturdy old champion of liberty. Do the men of today lack the love of liberty or do they fear to act upon their rights? Down-trodden for decades, it may be that at last they intend to garish and enhance their beauty, and that these side-wheel festoons are the harbingers of the good time coming.

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Also see Page 4, Part 1, for tomorrow's Opening Day news in other departments.

